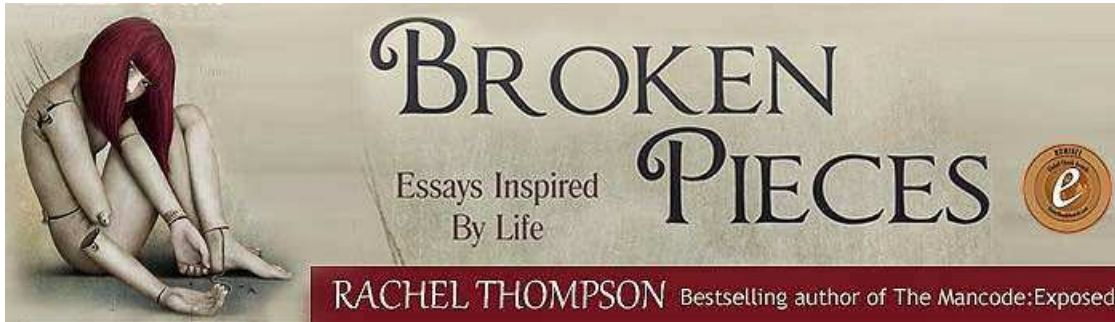


ASPIRING BOOK REVIEWS



Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Mars Rising by Mark David Major (Excerpt)

In the Image of Man: The Synthetics

"The brighter the light of a civilization, the sooner it must burn away so another can rise from its ashes."

Ancient Proverb

Prologue

Slavery of the machine referred to Synthetics. Synthetics were cybernetic organisms created in the image of their human makers. They appeared human in every way except for minute differences. The physical differences were legally stipulated so humans could easily distinguish a Synthetic. All Synthetics were bald. Their skin tone was perfect and slightly paler than normal for humans of the time. The eye color of all Synthetics was also a striking grayish-purple hue. These prescribed augmentations gave Synthetics a hint of artificiality that was obvious to all. But such measures were not necessary. Any human except for pre-pubescent children could easily identify a Synthetic. The reason was simple. They possessed an incredible artificial intelligence and a remarkable capacity for learning and storing information. Their bodies carried warmth and they could converse as well as any human, perhaps even better in some cases. There was no doubt they were self-aware. Nevertheless, it was abundantly clear that Synthetics lacked the essential spark of life differentiating the natural from the unnatural, the real from the fake, the original from imitation. They could emote